

# 175 years of news



BY FREDERICK N. RASMUSSEN AND PAUL MCCARDELL | The Baltimore Sun

This historic timeline takes a look at how throughout its long history, The Baltimore Sun has reported and reacted to local, state, national and international news events that changed and continue to influence the world.

## 1837 >>>

**1837:** On May 17, the first edition of The Sun comes off founder Arunah Shepherson Abell's hand-operated press with its name plate.

**1846:** The Sun sets up a combination of telegraph, railroad, steamboat, stage coaches and a pony express line to cover the Mexican-American War, bringing the newspaper to national prominence.

**1849:** An orderly finds writer Edgar Allan Poe dead at the Baltimore City and Marine Hospital.

**1853:** After 25 years of work, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad connects the Chesapeake Bay and the Ohio River.

**1861:** The bombardment of Fort Sumter in South Carolina sets off the Civil War on April 12. A week later, the first blood of the conflict is spilled on the streets of Baltimore, when a riot leaves five dead.



**1912:** A headline in The Sun finally confirms what most feared about the Titanic.

**1914:** Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria is assassinated in Sarajevo, setting World War I into motion.

**1916:** Baltimore Symphony Orchestra is established.

**1910:** The first edition of The Evening Sun makes its appearance in Baltimore.

**1906:** Famed journalist Henry Louis Mencken begins work at The Sun.



**1904:** The Great Baltimore Fire sweeps through 24 blocks of downtown. "City's most valuable buildings in ruins," The Sun's headline reads the next day.



**1895:** George Herman Ruth — who would become known as Babe Ruth and the "Sultan of Swat" — is born in Baltimore.

**1888:** Mary Garrettson Evans, The Sun's first female reporter, starts work.

**1876:** The Johns Hopkins University opens its doors. Johns Hopkins Hospital admits its first patient in 1889, and four years later, establishes its medical school.

**1865:** A black bordered Sun bears the headline: "The National Calamity. Death Of President Lincoln. Escape Of The Assassin. The Nation In Mourning. Public Expressions of Grief."

**BY TELEGRAPH.**  
[OFFICIAL BULLETIN.]  
**GLORIOUS NEWS.**  
**SURRENDER OF GEN. LEE AND HIS ARMY TO LT. GEN. GRANT.**  
**GEN. GRANT'S TERMS COMPLIED WITH.**  
Preliminary Correspondence in Full.

**1862:** More than 23,000 soldiers are dead, wounded or missing after the Battle of Antietam in Western Maryland — the bloodiest one-day battle of the war.

**1865:** Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia on April 10 to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, ending the Civil War.

**1863:** President Abraham Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation that stated slaves would be "forever free."



**1918:** Germany surrenders, and crowds jam downtown Baltimore to celebrate the end of World War I.

**1920:** Women get the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment.



**1921:** James Cardinal Gibbons — who had been Roman Catholic archbishop of Baltimore for more than 40 years and confidant of several presidents, including Theodore Roosevelt — dies.

**1925:** The Evening Sun pays for the defense at "The Monkey Trial" of John Scopes, a biology teacher who broke a Tennessee law by teaching evolution.

**1929:** A stock market crash plunges the nation into the Great Depression.

**1931:** The Sun wins its first Pulitzer Prize in 1931, when artist Edmund Duffy is honored for political cartooning. The Sun would be awarded 14 more Pulitzers.



**1932:** Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected president. The next year, Adolf Hitler is named German chancellor.

**1933:** One of the strongest hurricanes to ever hit Maryland slices through the state, creating Assateague Island.



**1952:** The Bay Bridge opens for traffic and in six hours, more than 2,300 cars crossed over the 4.1-mile span.

**1953:** After 51 years, big league baseball returns to Baltimore as team owners vote to move the St. Louis Browns franchise to a newly constructed Memorial Stadium on East 33rd Street.

**1954:** After the historic Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954, the city's public schools are integrated without incident. Future Supreme Court Justice and Baltimorean Thurgood Marshall argued the case before the court.



**1957:** The space race begins in earnest when the Soviet Union launches Sputnik.

**1958:** The city receives a post-Christmas present from the Colts when the football team beats the New York Giants, in the NFL championship game, at Yankee Stadium, 23-17, in a sudden-death period.



**1944:** Baltimoreans awaken to an "Extra" edition that brings them the news that Allied forces had landed in Europe at Normandy.

**1941:** Japanese forces bomb Pearl Harbor, drawing the United States into World War II.

**SEABISCUIT TOPS ADMIRAL BY THREE LENGTHS BEFORE PIMLICO CROWD OF 40,000**

Sets Track Record And Shows Superior Speed And Courage Over Mile-And-Three-Sixteenths Route  
Rises To Second Place In Turf Earnings, With Total Of \$340,000 — Rice Says Victor Is Gamest That Ever Raced In U. S.

**1938:** More than 40,000 crowd Pimlico Race Course to watch Seabiscuit beat challenger War Admiral in a race that has been described as one of the greatest sporting events in history.

**1936:** In what H.L. Mencken called the "greatest story since the Crucifixion," English monarch Edward VIII abdicates his throne to marry former Baltimorean Wallis Warfield Simpson.



**1963:** More than 200,000 attend the March on Washington and hear the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic "I Have a Dream" speech.



**1963:** President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald.

**1964:** President Lyndon Johnson signs the historic Civil Rights Act.



**1966:** After the Orioles win their first World Series, The Sun's headline says it all.



**1986:** Lifting off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., the shuttle Challenger explodes shortly after takeoff, killing its entire crew of seven.

**1984:** Colts leave Baltimore in a caravan of Mayflower moving vans that take them to their new home in Indianapolis.



**1983:** The Orioles win the World Series, defeating the Philadelphia Phillies in five games.

**1980:** More than 100,000 flock to the opening of Harborplace, the \$18 million "festival marketplace" developed by the Rouse Co.

**1975:** The Vietnam War ends after the fall of Saigon.

**1974:** Ensnared in the enveloping Watergate scandal, President Richard M. Nixon resigns.

**1973:** Vice President Spiro T. Agnew — the former Baltimore County executive and Maryland governor — resigns after pleading nolo contendere to tax-evasion charges.



**1972:** Campaigning for president at a Laurel shopping center, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace is shot, leaving him paralyzed for the rest of his life.

**1969:** After astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin F. Aldrin report "a very smooth landing on the moon," they take a stroll on the lunar surface.

**1968:** The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is slain by a gunman while standing on the balcony of a Memphis, Tenn., motel, setting off riots in several U.S. cities, including Baltimore.

**1992:** Oriole Park at Camden Yards opens to critical acclaim as streetcars — now called light rail — return for the first time since 1963.



**1993:** Fans at Camden Yards celebrate as Cal Ripken Jr. sets a record for playing in 2131 consecutive games.

**1995:** The last edition of The Evening Sun rolls off the presses.

**1996:** The Ravens kick off their first season as more than 60,000 fans pack Memorial Stadium to see the team beat the Oakland Raiders, 19-14.

**1996:** The Baltimore Sun launches Sunspot.net, which will later become baltimoresun.com.

**2001:** The Ravens win the Super Bowl, defeating the New York Giants, 34-7.

**2001:** After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon, a large, grim Sun headline summed up what all were feeling.



**2008:** Rodgers Forge swimmer Michael Phelps scoops up eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics.



## >>> 2012